## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1 14. (Withdrawn)
- 15. (Currently Amended) A composition of matter comprising a purified soluble

  Candidate Plasticity Gene-15 (s-CPG15) polypeptide comprising of an amino acid

  sequence having at least 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1, and having at least one

  s-CPG15 biological activity selected from the group consisting of: biological activity.
  - a) the ability to promote cell survival,
  - b) the ability to promote cell differentiation, and
  - c) the ability to prevent or reduce cell death.
- 16. (Currently Amended) The composition The purified s-CPG15 polypeptide of claim 15, wherein said s-CPG15 polypeptide lacks further comprises either a signal sequence or a GPI linkage sequence, or a signal sequence, but not both.
- 17. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 16, wherein said s-CPG15 lacks a signal sequence and a GPI-linkage sequence.

18. (Currently Amended) The composition polypeptide of claim 4715, wherein the soluble CPG15 lacking a signal sequence and a GPI linkage sequence has the *in vitro* biological activity of a CPG15 protein, wherein is purified from a cell culture, in which a CPG15 protein has undergone all of the following modifications:

a) the signal sequence and the GPI linkage sequence of said CPG15 protein have been cleaved;

b) said CPG15 protein has been bound to a cell membrane; and

c) said CPG15 protein has been released from the cell- into the supernatant of said cell culture,

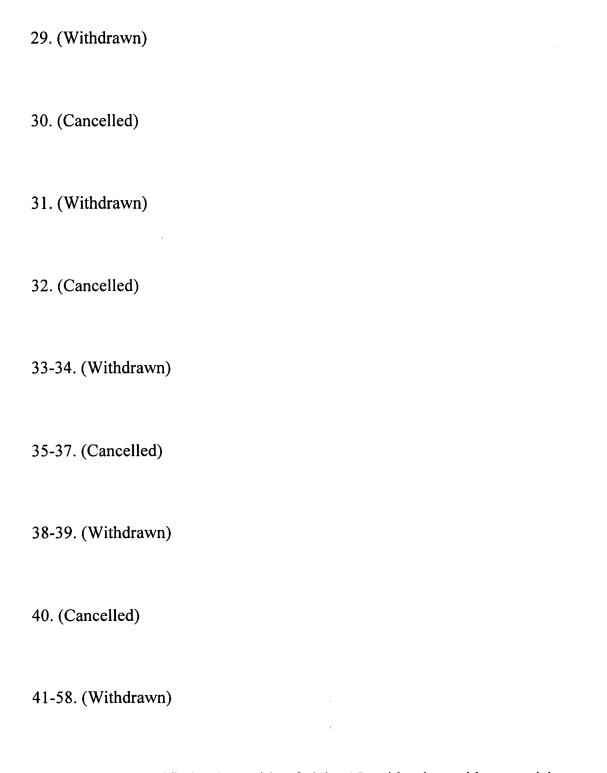
wherein said CPG15 released into the supernatant is the soluble CPG15.

19. (Cancelled) The composition of claim 17, wherein said s-CPG15 comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

20. (Currently Amended) The <u>composition polypeptide</u> of claim <u>1715</u>, wherein said s-CPG15 comprises a post-translational modification.

21 - 23. (Withdrawn)

24-28. (Cancelled)



- 60. (New) The purified polypeptide of claim 15, said polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 61. (New) The polypeptide of claim 59 comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 62. (New) The polypeptide of claim 15, wherein said s-CPG15 is at least 85% pure.
- 63. (New) The polypeptide of claim 15, wherein said s-CPG15 is at least 90% pure.
- 64. (New) The polypeptide of claim 15, wherein said s-CPG15 is at least 95% pure.
- 65. (New) The polypeptide of claim 18, wherein said s-CPG15 is at least 85% pure.
- 66. (New) The polypeptide of claim 18, wherein said s-CPG15 is at least 90% pure.

- 67. (New) The polypeptide of claim 18, wherein said s-CPG15 is at least 95% pure.
- 68. (New) The polypeptide of claim 20, wherein said s-CPG15 is at least 85% pure.
- 69. (New) The polypeptide of claim 20, wherein said s-CPG15 is at least 90% pure.
- 70. (New) The polypeptide of claim 20, wherein said s-CPG15 is at least 95% pure.